



NOTCA

National Opioid Treatment Clinicians Association

EXECUTIVE BOARD

- Terry Willis,
President, GMPC

- J. Paul Connell,
Vice President, GMPC

- Ned Etherington
Treasurer, GMPC

- Joelyn Alfred
Secretary, GMPC

- Melissa Ragsdale
Parliamentarian, GMPC

- Elaine Tophia
Executive Director, NOTCA

BOARD OF APPEALS

- Everett L. Blake, Chair
- Wanda Diann Henry
- Jerry Love

ETHICS BOARD

- Victor K. Hollings, Chair
- Ola Leslie Green
- Deirdre K. Wilhoite
- Kimberly Hosey

BOARD OF EXAMINERS

- Larry Hardy, Chair
- Jill Loveridge
- Elaine Tophia

MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF OPIOID TREATMENT

www.notca.com

May 2004

**A Decade of Progress
Mr. Terry L. Willis
President GMPC**

After stammering for the fledgling years of existence, Georgia Methadone Providers Coalition (GMPC) has made remarkable progress the past ten years. I have been directly involved in our trade organization practically since its inception. I have been privileged to observe leadership at its best from my predecessors. The many sacrifices, confrontations, challenges, visions, steadfast positions, as well as compromises accomplished by Onaje (Lacey) Salim, our first president and Penny Hall, our immediate past president, have contributed to GMPC being the outstanding organization it is today.

If you are reading this newsletter you obviously have a strong interest or at least conversely a fleeting interest in the plight or status of opiate treatment in the State of Georgia and the United States of America today.

As current president of GMPC, I and current Executive Board Members have the compulsion and motivation to assume our position on the local, state, national and international stage. Although GMPC is a state trade organization, within the last few years we've developed the insight and foresight to extend our tentacles beyond the borders of the State of Georgia. GMPC has been very fortunate over the past decade in that we have consistently averaged over ninety-five percent dues paying participation from provider programs throughout the state.

Over the past decade GMPC, through its membership, has educated countless educational institutions, civic and social organizations, businesses, politicians, city, county and state governmental authorities, individuals and families of the significant positive impact our services have on society. We continue to strive toward providing the most effective educational

and training force possible. We feel that our most powerful contact has been made through one of our greatest assets, our schools.

Despite all our efforts toward eliminating stereotypes, ignorance, discrimination and the overall public perception of our profession, many, many threats to our livelihood lie in the years to come from all directions. These threats are based on the aforementioned elements we have been trying to eliminate. I trust that as more and more programs either private, public or otherwise open their doors to serve the public in treating the insidious disease of opiate addiction, our membership will continue to grow and focus on the challenges that lie ahead for decades to come.

CURRENT ACTIVE CERTIFIED MEMBERS

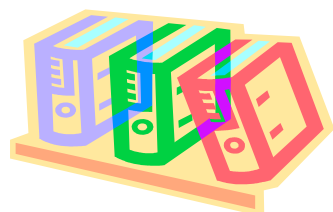
- | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Joelyn Alfred | David Eustice | Kathy Haynes | Diane Johoples | Deirdre Wilhoite |
| Everett Blake | Rembert C. Fortson | Wynette Henley | Jerry Love | |
| Dave Brown | William Geren | Wanda Henry | Sherri Long | |
| Patricia Bonhomme | Bernice Glover | Linda Holland | Jill Loveridge | |
| D. Rick Campbell | Ronald Grant | Victor Hollings | Barbara Massa | |
| Kimberly Cole | Ola Green | Helen Hooper | Onuzulike N. Nwizu | |
| J. Paul Connell | Ron Griffin | Kimberly Hosey | Eugene Ray | |
| Jonathan Connell | Larry Hardy | Jean Hughes | Kenneth H. Strickland | |

A Message From The Executive Director of NOTCA: Elaine Tophia

The National Opioid Treatment Clinicians Association (NOTCA) was established in 1999 out of the need to have a credentialing process for opioid treatment counselors. I have had the distinct pleasure of serving as the Executive Director for NOTCA since 2001. During this time, I have witnessed the growth of this organization from providing a certification process for counselors to including a solid core of trainers, additional certification programs for supervisors and nurses, HIV Early Intervention Services certification, and a Life Skills development program.

We are fortunate to have a core of trainers from within our opioid treatment community that has an extensive history of providing treatment for the population we serve. They bring to the training arena a wealth of knowledge and skills that have proven to be effective in changing the lives of individuals suffering with opioid addiction. The primary goals of each training activity is to facilitate the development of quality clinicians, prepare individuals for certification and to meet regulatory and accreditation standards. Final evaluations have provided proof that we have indeed been successful in obtaining these goals.

We are excited about our success and look forward to continuous growth. We stand on the belief that the challenges of opioid treatment have only proven that we have never done enough so long as it is still possible that we have something to contribute.



NOTCA

MISSION

We are committed to reviewing and authenticating clinical competency by providing education and certification processes for opioid treatment clinicians.

PHILOSOPHY

We believe that education and appropriate skills application are the keys to effective opioid treatment. This takes place when those clinicians charged with providing services to opioid dependent individuals understand what the responsibility of caring for the whole person entails. Service providers should be encouraged to continually participate in the educational process and develop a network of resources to ensure their capability of meeting the challenges of opioid treatment.

GOALS

- To ensure the public of competency and skills of clinical services offered by a certified opioid treatment clinician.
- To provide professional recognition among the body of opioid treatment counseling and medical professions through an examination process designed to review competency based skills, academic preparation, supervision, and professional experience.
- To assure continuous professional development of the opioid treatment clinician through on-going training events, especially focusing around opioid treatment, pharmacologic interven-

tions, infectious diseases, clinical practices, and alternative treatment options.

- To enhance the clinician's professional ability to render quality treatment services through a certification process and professional accountability.
- To guide providers and employers in the selection of competent opioid treatment clinicians.
- To assist the general public in it's understanding of opioid treatment.

NOTCA TRAINERS

“Education is Key to Meeting the Challenges of Opioid Treatment”

Joelyn T. Alfred, MS, NCC, COTC

Kathy Haynes, MA, COTC

Jean J. E. Bonhomme, MD, MPH

Mark W. Peterson, MD

J. Paul Connell, JD, COTC

Melissa Ragsdale, LPC

Alan Folsom, MD

James Taylor, LPC, CAC II

Larry Hardy, CCS, COTC

Elaine Tophia, LMSW, SAM

Challenges and opportunities are continuously unfolding in the field of opioid treatment and they are usually accompanied by the need for additional training and trainers that specialize in certain areas. We are currently recruiting trainers from our medical staff, at the opioid treatment centers, to develop specialized trainings for the Certified Opioid Treatment Nurse credential.

BREAKING GROUND IN OPIOID TREATMENT
With a Special Focus on HIV Early Intervention Services

NOTCA THIRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE

HILTON GARDEN INN CHATTANOOGA DOWNTOWN
311 CHESTNUT STREET
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37402
September 17–19, 2004

Specialized Trainings Offered

Pharmacology in Opioid Treatment

Planning Treatment for Women in Opioid Treatment

Pharmacy Procedures in Opioid Treatment

Medical Issues of Opioid Treatment Patients

CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS REQUIREMENTS

Certified Opioid Treatment Clinician (COTC)

- High school diploma or GED
- Two years full paid time practicing chemical dependency counseling
- Six months practice as a counselor in opioid treatment setting
- 120 hours continuing education
- 220 hours of supervised experience
- Supervisor and Professional recommendations

Continuing education must have taken place in the most recent 5 years, prior to application

*Grandfathering period through March 1, 2005 for applicants residing outside the State of Georgia.

Please visit our Website at www.notca.com for complete details of certification processes, applications and training schedule.

Certified Master Opioid Treatment Clinician (CMOTC)

- Current and valid state certification/licensure in A&D counseling
- Verification of Masters degree in human services from an accredited institution of higher learning
- Verification of 5 years of A&D counseling
- Verification of 3 years of supervised experience in the A&D field
- Verification of 40 hours of didactic training in clinical supervision

Forty hours must include:

- Assessment/Evaluation
- Counselor Development
- Management/Administration
- Professional and Ethical Responsibilities
- Pharmacology in Opioid Treatment
- Cultural Sensitivity
- Prevention of Violence
- Confidentiality in A&D Treatment
- Federal and State Regulations

Required training must have taken place in the most recent 5 years, prior to application

*Grandfathering period for all applicants through March 1, 2005

Certified Opioid Treatment Nurse (COTN)

- Practicing licensed nurse for 3 years
- 2 years of experience in chemical dependency
- 120 hours of continuing education, 30 specific to opioid treatment
- 220 hours of supervised experience in chemical dependency
- Demonstrate competency in the 15 specific nursing areas ascribed by the American Nursing Association Professional Standards of Addiction Nursing

Thirty specific hours must include:

- Pharmacy Procedures
- Medical Issues of Opioid Treatment Patients
- Federal and State Regulations
- Professional and Ethical Responsibilities
- Prevention of Violence
- Confidentiality in A&D Treatment
- Cultural Sensitivity
- Customer Service

Required training must have taken place in the most recent 5 years, prior to application.

*Grandfathering period for all applicants through March 1, 2005

EXAM DATES FOR COTC

Oral Exam: July 29, 2004 & December 16, 2004
Written Exam: July 8, 2004 & December 2, 2004

EXAM PREPARATION DATES FOR COTC

Oral Exam: June 10, 2004 & September 9, 2004
Written Exam: June 17, 2004 & September 23, 2004